

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighth Worcester Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Eighth Worcester Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.6% (781) reside in the Eighth Worcester Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (148) of Eighth Worcester Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.1% of admissions from the Eighth Worcester Representative District were male and 26.9% were female.
- Over 65.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 88.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.4% were black non-Latino, 6.7% were Latino, and 3.3% were other racial categories.
- 61.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 16.1% were married, and 14.7% reported not to be married now.
- 32.7% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.7% completed high school, and 16.7% had more than high school education.
- 43.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 5.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 7.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Eighth Worcester Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Eighth Worcester Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	550	474	174	132	55	103	52
FY '96	564	481	203	133	67	132	77
FY '97	573	489	178	126	57	126	103
FY '98	682	589	261	170	87	173	136
FY '99	718	594	232	179	98	193	153
FY '00	757	606	249	163	119	256	197
FY '01	781	564	240	158	95	286	242

- Since FY 1995, residents of Eighth Worcester Representative District reported a steady increase in crack and heroin use. Crack use increased by 72%, and heroin use more than doubled.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 19%, marijuana by 38%, and cocaine use by 19%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighth Worcester Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	50.2%	34.3%	7.8%	3.1%	2.1%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.